

CHINA

Weekly Report, 1st - 15th August 2025



- PLA Day celebrated nationwide, marking the founding of the People's Liberation Army. Xi Jinping and senior leaders reaffirmed Party control over the armed forces at ceremonies in Beijing.
- China and Russia held the joint 'Maritime Interaction-2025' naval drills near Vladivostok. This included destroyers, supply ships, submarines, helicopters, and marines from both sides. For the first time, the PLA deployed a submarine, demonstrating deeper military cooperation with Russia.
- Pakistan officially received Chinese Z-10ME attack helicopters, reinforcing China's role as a key defence supplier and strengthening bilateral military ties.
- Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense reported multiple PLA aerial sorties into its ADIZ. Between 12–16 aircraft flew to the north and east of the island, marking continued pressure operations.
- Major infrastructure push with the launch of the Xinjiang–Tibet Railway (2000 km, RMB 200 billion investment), set to begin construction in November. This strategic line strengthens connectivity between sensitive regions.
- Work began on the Lower Yarlung Zangbo River Hydropower Project in Tibet (RMB 1.2 trillion, equivalent to three Three Gorges Dams), sparking concern in India due to downstream impacts on the Brahmaputra River.
- Zhala Hydropower Station in Tibet entered its core installation phase, installing the world's first 500 MW impulse hydropower unit using Zoomlion cranes.
- Progress on the Tianshan Victory Tunnel (22.1 km, the world's longest highway tunnel under construction) and Urumqi's first low-altitude economic drone manufacturing zone.
- Military demonstrations included Type 96B tanks, J-10 fighters, PLZ10 self-propelled mortars, and a new stealth combat jet prototype. The Xia-class nuclear submarine was repurposed as a training platform, while the YJ-12 supersonic anti-ship missile highlighted China's naval strike capability.
- Scarborough Shoal incident: a PLA Navy destroyer collided with a China Coast Guard cutter while trying to block a Philippine vessel, demonstrating direct PLA involvement in disputed waters.
- China showcased the Unmanned Intelligent Wingman System (AI-enabled drones designed to fly alongside fighters like the J-20 and J-35A).
- At the World Robot Conference, Hanwang Technology revealed robotic birds and dogs for security, firefighting, and industry.
- Debut of the Land Shield 3000 CIWS – an 11-barrel, 12,000 rounds-per-minute defence gun with radar integration for drone/missile interception.
- Breakthrough in naval reconnaissance systems for enclosed seas, improving intelligence collection in high-density signal environments.
- Construction of the Yarlung Zangbo Hydropower Project (largest hydropower in history) officially started. With a planned 300 billion kWh annual output, it aims to reshape China's energy mix while raising geopolitical tensions with India.
- China and Russia continued Maritime Joint-2025 naval drills, with China's new West Lake integrated rescue ship (13,000 tons) participating for the first time.
- AI-driven monitoring was applied to the excavation of the Yangtze River Mouth No. 2 ancient shipwreck, protecting the largest Qing dynasty wooden ship ever found.
- Bulk carrier Xianyu 134 (200m, 35,648 tons) was launched for sea trials.
- Tender announced in Hotan, Xinjiang, for expanding satellite ground station facilities, including new antenna fields and fiber networks.
- PLA launched a centralized online military uniform and bedding reservation system under a new '2+2' application model to improve logistics efficiency.

- PLA conducted 5 km armed cross-country training in Tibet at 4,300m altitude, testing endurance in extreme conditions.
- China unveiled the Hongqi air defence missile family: HQ-9B, HQ-9BE, HQ-16, HQ-17, and HQ-19 (hypersonic and ballistic missile interception). The HQ-19 in particular represents a global leap in missile defence capabilities.
- Xi'an Flight Academy cadets underwent tactical guard training in heat-stressed environments, simulating multi-terrain combat.
- China unveiled its first high-speed VTOL jet drone, effectively enabling any warship to function as an aircraft carrier.
- PLA anti-tank brigades carried out live-fire drills in unfamiliar terrain to sharpen rapid deployment skills.
- China showcased its growing unmanned surface vessel fleet, emphasizing their cost-effective role in South China Sea operations.
- Breakthrough research from NUDT included the Zettafly network topology for computing and the world's first phonon laser frequency comb.
- NUDT students won the National Intelligent Car Competition with AI-powered tactical vehicles, showing dual-use innovation.